

Recommendations from DNR Shrimp Advisory Panel December 5, 2005

Status Quo:

1. A 48-quarts (heads-on) per person or per boat possession limit for recreational cast netters.
2. Recreational bait shrimp harvest and food shrimp harvest with a seine and cast net allowed seven days a week, 24 hours a day.
3. No harvest of shrimp over bait.
4. Use existing sound-beach boundaries as defined in Board Rule 391-2-.03. However, boundary references defined by physical points (i.e., a DNR marker at the northern tip of Tybee Island) will be defined based on latitude and longitude. This will require DNR Board Action
5. Open state waters to power-drawn trawls at the same time South Carolina opens its state waters when feasible.
6. Continue to have a maximum of 200 licenses in the commercial cast net fishery for food shrimp.
7. Allow the harvest of live bait shrimp with trawl (both commercial and recreational) only in defined areas of the estuaries (e.g., bait zones).
8. Open Georgia's state waters to the harvest of food shrimp on or later than May 15. Close season on December 31 unless extended by the DNR Commissioner.
9. Allow food shrimp harvest with cast nets in all salt waters of Georgia.
10. Continue to require turtle excluder devices and finfish bycatch reduction devices in food shrimp trawls.

Changes:

1. Allow modified cast nets with a minimum mesh size of 5/8 inch (bar) for commercial and recreational harvest of food shrimp. No restriction on the length of the net. **Law change – no consensus**
2. Close state waters to the recreational harvest of food shrimp on November 30. **Administrative authority of DNR Commissioner or law changes. Suggestion was made by one member to move closing date back to October 31.**

3. Increase the daily possession limit for commercial cast net food shrimp harvest to 150 quarts (heads-on) through November 30. On December 1, the possession limit is reduced to 75 quarts. **Law change – no consensus**
4. Repeal the 220 ft maximum trawl size law. **Law change**
5. Allow food shrimp to be unloaded, but no retail sale, at facilities licensed to sell live bait shrimp. **Law change**
6. Allow use of modified cast nets with a maximum mesh size of 3/8 inch (bar) for commercial harvest of live bait shrimp in established bait zones. All other commercial live bait shrimp harvest regulations remain the same. **Law change**
7. Allow commercial food and bait shrimp harvest only during the period from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. **Law change**
8. Establish a permit for recreational food shrimp fishery (all gears). **Law change**
9. Allow bait shrimp and food shrimp cast nets to be carried onboard recreational vessels at the same time. **Law change**
10. Develop and implement DNR guidelines for opening and closing bait shrimp harvest zones that require public input. **Internal to CRD**
11. Commercial cast net licenses not issued by May 1st will be issued by a lottery held on the first business day of June. Any licenses not issued by lottery will be available on a first come, first served basis. **Law Change**
12. DNR will initiate development of a controlled-access plan for the Georgia power drawn trawl food shrimp fishery. **Internal to CRD**
13. DNR will work with the Department of Law, Office of State Administrative Hearings, and the Georgia General Assembly to determine how to improve the civil adjudication of shrimp fishing law and rule violations. **Internal to CRD**